(e) what are the details of the steps being taken by Government to remove the deficiencies to check smuggling?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (e) It is not possible to estimate the quantum of contraband goods being smuggled into or out of the country. However, the value of seizures of contraband goods including gold, silver, drugs; electronic goods, etc. effected during the last 3 calendar years as given in the table below show an increasing trend.

Year	Value of contraband seized (Rs. in crores)
1988 . . .	443.14
1989 . . .	554.59
1990 . . . (Upto 14-5-90)	26 .62

*(Figure is provisional)

Contraband goods are smuggled into and out of the country through the land borders, the coastline and through the international airports and sea ports. The anti-smuggling agencies have been geared up at all the vulnerable points. Sophisticated equipment like X-ray Baggage Machines, Metal Detectors and Night vision binaculors are being increasingly used. Self-loading rifles have also been supplied wherever considered necessary. Close co-ordination is being maintained amongst all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling. The assistance of the various agencies of the State Governments is taken for preventing smuggling activities whenever considered necessary. The State Governments are also empowered to detain persons involved in smuggling activities under the Preventive Detention Laws.

Long Term Fiscal Policy

993. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1162 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd March, 1990 and state:

(a) whether Government have since formulated a long term fiscal policy; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The new Long Term Fiscal Policy for the period 1990-95 is still under formulation.

Processing Charges for Cheques

994. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal from the commercial banks to charge processing charges for cheques from the clients;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether such a step will increase the banking cost and will have adverse impact on the final price index for different items?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) To facilitate faster clearance of cheques and to improve customer service, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) provides mechanised cheque processing service in the Clearing Houses at Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Madras. In keeping with the well established practice of sharing costs for operating the Clearing House by member banks, RBI proposes to recover cheque processing charges from member banks on a no-profit-no-loss basis to cover the operating expenses incurred by it on equip-

ment, infrastructure and other facilities for providing the service. RBI has further reported that pending a final decision about the rate of charges, it has advised banks to make a provision in their accounts for the year ended 31-3-1990 at a tentative rate of 25 paise per cheque, outgoing or incoming, processed by RBI on their behalf.

RBI has reported that it has not taken any view on the question of recovering the cheque processing charges from customers.

(c) Does not arise.

Suggestions for Handling black money

995. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. A. Bagchi of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy and Dr. Anand P. Gupta, a World Bank Consultant have given any suggestions about handling black money;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether they opposed the amnesty scheme; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The Central Board of Direct Taxes under the Ministry of Finance have not recived any suggestions from Dr. A. Bagchi of the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy or Dr. Anand P. Gupta, a World Bank Consultant regarding handling of black money.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Income tax Assessment of N.C.C.F.

996. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income-tax assessment of the National Consumer Cooperative Federation (NCCF) for the cooperative year 1986-87 relevant to the assessment year 1988-89 has been finalised; and

(b) if so, whether the accounts have been accepted and if not, what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir. The assessment of the National Consumer Cooperative Federation for the assessment year 1988-89 has not been made so far.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of Purbanchal Bank Ltd. with Central Bank of India

997. DR. NAGEN SAIKIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to put an end to the moratorium period of the Purbanchal Bank Limited by getting it merged with the Central Bank of India;

(b) if so, when the decision would be given effect; and

(c) what steps will be taken to protect the interests of the Purbanchal Bank employees and its customers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) The present order of moratorium issued in respect of the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. is operative upto and inclusive of 20th May, 1990. The question of the future set up of the Purbanchal Bank Ltd. is under con-